



DECISION MEMO
KC MIDSTREAM SOLUTIONS FOREST ROAD 261 SPECIAL USE
PIPELINE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
MARIENVILLE RANGER DISTRICT
ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST
LOT 146, WARRANT 2560, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
LOTS 179 AND 186, WARRANT 2575, WETMORE TOWNSHIP
McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

BACKGROUND

KC Midstream Solutions, LLC has requested a special use authorization to construct, maintain, and use a 4-inch diameter plastic natural gas pipeline in forest road 261 and along an oil and gas access road to connect to their gas processing facilities on private lands (see attached map). The proposed authorization would involve the construction on National Forest System lands of approximately 8,200 feet long by 20 feet wide (3.6 acres) and could be authorized up to 20 years. The proposed authorization falls within Management Area 2.2 (late structural linkages) where utility lines are considered a suitable use.

DECISION

I have decided to approve KC Midstream Solutions' request for a special use authorization to construct, maintain, and use a 4-inch diameter plastic natural gas pipeline on National Forest System lands. My decision is to allow KC Midstream Solutions to excavate their trench for their proposed pipeline in the road template of forest road 261 and along an oil and gas access road as follows:

- 1) Operating only within the template of the road, they will trench on the left/center (or uphill side) of the road, where the culverts are at their most shallow in the roadbed.
- 2) Staying completely within the operating surface and avoiding any disturbance to vegetation on the shoulders, ditch slope, ditch line, or fill slope, they will dig the trench in one side of the road and place excavated material in the other side of the road. The trench would average 3 feet in depth. They will use magnetic strips on the plastic pipe to allow marking of the line for any future road or pipeline work.
- 3) Where they encounter culverts, they will angle the trench and bore at least 6 inches under the culvert and backfilling with gravel around the culvert.
- 4) They will use a mini-excavator to limit track width and backfill and compact the trench as they go.

- 5) For the segment along the oil and gas road at the top of the hill, they will trench and place the pipeline in the ditch line of the road.
- 6) When the pipeline is installed, they will place offset markers at prescribed distances along the line to note the presence of the line in the road template.
- 7) Construction of the pipeline shall occur between July 1 and October 31.
- 8) Implementation of the standard equipment cleaning measures is required so that invasive species are not accidentally spread to other areas of the forest.
- 9) Implementation of an approved soil erosion and sedimentation plan.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as 36 CFR 220(e)(3) "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System Lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land". This category of action(s) is applicable because the project boundary encompasses approximately 3.6 acres of contiguous National Forest System lands.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. I considered resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – There is no designated critical habitat on the Allegheny National Forest for any federally listed threatened or endangered species. Surveys indicate that species or resources of concern are located within the vicinity of the project. However, with implementation of Forest Plan standards and guidelines, Pennsylvania best management practices, and project design features, it has been determined that no effect or impact is likely to any federally listed threatened or endangered species or Forest Service sensitive species, except for the wood turtle and West Virginia white. A "may adversely impact individuals but is not likely to cause a loss of viability in the Planning Area, nor cause a trend toward federal listing" determination was reached for these two species.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – No wetlands, floodplains, streams, or municipal watersheds were identified within the project boundary. However, multiple flowing seeps and springs are cross by forest road 261. With implementation of Forest Plan standards and guidelines, Pennsylvania best management practices, and project design features, no wetlands, floodplains, streams, or municipal watersheds will be impacted by this decision.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – There are no wilderness, wilderness study areas of national recreation areas near the proposed project area. This decision is not located near either the Allegheny or Clarion Wild and Scenic River.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – There are no inventoried

roadless areas or potential wilderness areas near the proposed project area.

- Research natural areas – There are no research national areas near the proposed project area.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – A heritage survey was conducted for the project and no historic properties were identified.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – A heritage survey was conducted for the project and no historic properties were identified.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This project has been listed as a proposal in the Allegheny National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions since September 2019. The scoping proposal was sent to interested individuals and organizations on the NEPA mailing list and adjacent subsurface landowners on September 19, 2019. The scoping proposal was posted to the Allegheny National Forest website on September 19, 2019. A news release on the scoping proposal was sent to local media on September 26, 2019. The scoping period for this project ended on October 21, 2019. No comments on the proposal were received during the scoping period.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (or Forest Plan). The proposed activities are considered suitable in Management Area 2.2, and applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines will be followed. This decision is consistent with all applicable NEPA procedures.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to administrative review, appeal, or objection.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This decision may be implemented immediately.

CONTACT

For additional information, please contact: Robert (Bob) Monroe, Lands/Recreation Program Manager, Allegheny National Forest Supervisor's Office, 4 Farm Colony Drive, Warren, Pennsylvania, 16365. Phone: 814-728-6231. E-mail: robert.monroe@usda.gov.


JAMIE DAVIDSON
Forest Supervisor

15 NOV 19
Date

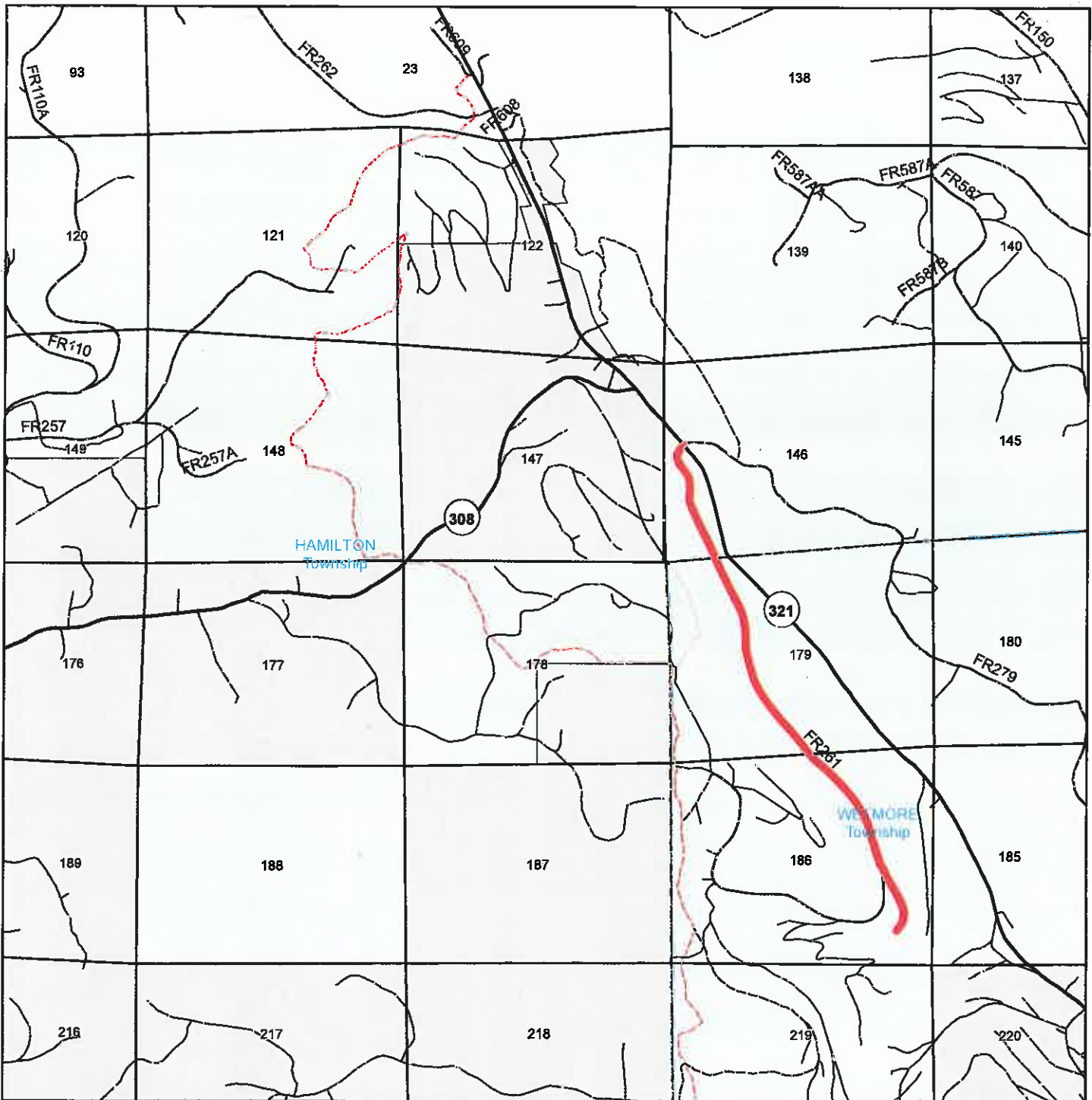


The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Special Use Authorization

Allegheny National Forest - Marienville Ranger District



Authorization Information

Name: KC Midstream Solutions, LLC
Authorization ID: MRN370
Primary Use Code: 631
Use Code Name: Oil and Gas Pipeline
Expiration Date: 12/31/2049
Lot(s)/Warrant(s): L146/W2560; L146,179/W2575
Township(s): Hamilton; Wetmore
Management Area: 2.2

Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.

Legend

- MRN370; Proposed Pipeline
- Forest Service Ownership
- Corps of Engineers Ownership
- Non-FS Ownership

1 inch = 2,000 feet

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

PENNSYLVANIA



NAD 1983 UTM 17N

